

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 251021 TOSEC 160221

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUANDA 1619, SENT SECSTATE, INFO LISBON,
OCTOBER 21:

QUOTE S E C R E T LUANDA 1619

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE ARMS IN ANGOLA

REF: STATE 246921

1. I TALKED WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER ADMIRAL CARDOSO ON OCTOBER 20
ABOUT THE DISPOSITION PORTUGAL PLANS TO MAKE OF ITS REMAINING
ARMS AND AMMUNITION STORES IN ANGOLA.

2. THE ADMIRAL GAVE THE FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON ACTIONS TAKEN OR
UNDERWAY:

- A) ALL BREECH MECHANISMS REMOVED FROM RIFLES.
- B) 100 TONS OF AMMUNITION HAVE BEEN BURNED OR DUMPED IN THE
OCEAN.

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- C) ONLY NON-FLYING AIRCRAFT WILL BE LEFT BEHIND.

D) 25 ASSORTED VESSELS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PASSED TO THE MARITIME SERVICE AND WILL BE LEFT BEHIND ON NOVEMBER 11. TWO ARE IN SANTO ANTONIO DO ZAIRE. THE CRAFT ARE OF NO GREAT VALUE, AS THE MOVEMENTS DO NOT HAVE TRAINED PERSONNEL TO RUN THEM OR TO MAINTAIN THEM. THE NAVAL TRAINING SCHOOL THE ADMIRAL INSTITUTED WITH 200 STUDENTS IS NOW DOWN TO THE FIFTY OR SIXTY MPLA TRAINEES. THE VESSELS WILL BE OF NO GREAT USE TO MPLA.

E) NO ARMORED VEHICLES WILL BE LEFT.

F) VERY FEW HEAVY ARTILLERY PIECES WILL BE LEFT, ALL OF THEM OLD.

3. THE ADMIRAL REPORTED THAT THE MPLA IS QUITE UPSET ABOUT WHAT IT CONSIDERS THE ANTI-MPLA STANCE OF THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES HERE AND THE ATTEMPT TO KEEP EQUIPMENT FROM FALLING INTO ITS HANDS. HE ADDED THAT MPLA IS STILL BITTER ABOUT THE PORTUGUESE CONFISCATION OF MORE THAN 300 TONS OF ARMS ABOARD THE LCI "MAIOMBE" IN JUNE-JULY.

4. THE ADMIRAL SAID PORTUGUESE ARE DOING ALL THEY CAN OR SHOULD. THE ITEMS BEING ABANDONED TO THE MPLA ARE NOT GOING TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VICTORY OR DEFEAT, HE EMPHASIZED.

5. WITH RESPECT TO CARDOSO'S APPOINTMENT OF FORMER MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COLLEGE AS MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO, THIS ACTION LEGITIMIZED THE STATUS OF MPLA MINISTER LOPG DO NASCIMENTO WHO ALONE OF THE THREE COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUES TO FUNCTION IN THE GOVERNMENT. UNTIL CARDOSO'S DECREE LOPG DO

NASCIMENTO WAS DOING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS WITH NO LEGAL RIGHT TO DO SO. IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBLE CRITICISM AND CLAIMS OF NULLIFICATION, THE ADMIRAL HIT UPON THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO IDEA. THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT HAS TO GO FORWARD AND THERE HAS TO BE A LINK BETWEEN THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE INTERNAL GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA (OR CERTAIN PARTS OF IT). NASCIMENTO SERVES AS THAT LINK AND THE ADMIRAL FELT THAT MUCH THE BEST COURSE WAS TO PROVIDE HIM WITH THE REQUISITE AUTHORITY. KILLORAN UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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